CLAIMS:

1.   A display (200) of content items, comprising:

a displayed set (201) of display items (201a, 201b, 201c) each representing one

5   of a plurality of protected content items including at least one content item protected by a first digital rights management system and at least an other one content item protected by a second digital rights management system; and

one or more icons (203, 204, 205) associated with a display item (201a, 201b, 201c) for each protected content item within the set 201, the one or more icons (203, 204, 205)

10   at least one of

identifying a digital rights management system protecting the respective protected content item (201a, 201b, 201c),

indicating accessibility to a user of a digital rights management access module for accessing the respective protected content item (201a, 201b, 201c), and

15   indicating rights of the user to access the respective protected content item (201a, 201b, 201c).

2.   The display (200) according to claim 1, wherein the one or more icons (203, 204, 205) identify a digital rights management system protecting the respective protected

20   content item (201a, 201b, 201c), indicate accessibility to the user of the digital rights management access module for accessing the respective protected content item (201a, 201b, 201c), and indicate rights of the user to access the respective protected content item (201a, 201b, 201c).

25   3.   The display (200) according to claim 1, wherein the one or more icons (203, 204, 205) associated with the display item (201a, 201b, 201c) for each protected content item within the set (201) identify a digital rights management system protecting the respective protected content item (201a, 201b, 201c), the icons including a first icon (204) associated with the display item (201a) for the one content item and indicating that the one content item is

30   protected by the first digital rights management system and a second icon (204) associated with the display item (201b) for the other one content item and indicating that the other one content item is protected by the second digital rights management system.

4.   The display (200) according to claim 1, wherein the one or more icons (203, 204, 205) associated with the display item 201a-201c for each protected content item within the set (201) indicate accessibility to a user of the digital rights management access module for accessing the respective protected content item, a first appearance of the one or more icons indicating that the digital rights management access module is accessible to the user and a second appearance of the one or more icons indicating that the digital rights management access module is not accessible to the user.

5.   The display (200) according to claim 4, wherein the second appearance of the one or more icons (203, 204, 205) comprises a negation image superimposed on the first appearance of the one or more icons (203, 204, 205).

6.   The display (200) according to claim 1, wherein the one or more icons (203, 204, 205) associated with the display item (201a, 201b, 201c) for each protected content item within the set (201) indicate rights of the user to access the respective protected content item, a first appearance of the one or more icons (205) indicating that the user is entitled to access the respective protected content item and a second appearance of the one or more icons (205) indicating that the user is not entitled to access the respective content item.

7.   The display (200) according to claim 1, wherein at least some of the one or more icons (203, 204, 205) further comprise user controls (a) enabling selective linking to or display of information regarding either acquisition of a digital rights management access module for accessing the respective protected content item or acquisition of rights to access the respective protected content item, (b) initiating acquisition of either the digital rights management module or the access rights, or (c) initiating operation of the digital rights management module.

8.   A content access system (100) including the display (200) according to claim 1, the content access system (100) further comprising:

a display (101) on which the set (201) of display items and the one or more icons (203, 204, 205) are displayed;

a control sub-system (103) producing display of the set (201) of display items and the one or more icons (203, 204, 205) on the display (101); and

one or more user input mechanisms (102) enabling a user to select either a display item (201a, 201b, 201c) within the set (201) of display items or one of the one or more icons (203, 204, 205).

9.   A software program product comprising machine usable instructions for generating the display (200) according to claim 1.

10.   A signal comprising machine usable data representing the display (200) according to claim 1.

11.   A display method (400), comprising:

displaying a set (201) of display items each representing one of a plurality of protected content items including at least one content item protected by a first digital rights management system and at least an other one content item protected by a second digital rights

5   management system; and

displaying one or more icons (203, 204, 205) in association with a display item (201a, 201b, 201c) for each protected content item within the list, the one or more icons (203, 204, 205) at least one of

identifying a digital rights management system protecting the respective

10   protected content item,

indicating accessibility to a user of a digital rights management access module for accessing the respective protected content item, and

indicating rights of the user to access the respective protected content item.

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12.   The method (400) according to claim 11, wherein the one or more icons)203, 204, 205) identify a digital rights management system protecting the respective protected content item, indicate accessibility to the user of the digital rights management access module for accessing the respective protected content item, and indicate rights of the user to access the

20   respective protected content item.

13.   The method (400) according to claim 11, wherein the one or more icons 203-205 associated with the display item (201a, 201b, 201c) for each protected content item within the set (201) identify a digital rights management system protecting the respective protected

25   content item (201a, 201b, 201c), the icons (203, 204, 205) including a first icon (204) associated with the display item for the one content item and indicating that the one content item is protected by the first digital rights management system and a second icon (204) associated with the display item for the other one content item and indicating that the other one content item is protected by the second digital rights management system.

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14.   The method (400) according to claim 11, wherein the one or more icons (203, 204, 205) associated with the display item (201a, 201b, 201c) for each protected content item

within the set (201) indicate accessibility to a user of the digital rights management access module for accessing the respective protected content item, a first appearance of the one or more icons indicating that the digital rights management access module is accessible to the user and a second appearance of the one or more icons indicating that the digital rights management access module is not accessible to the user.

15. The method (400) according to claim 14, wherein the second appearance of the one or more icons (203, 204, 205) comprises a negation image superimposed on the first appearance of the one or more icons (203, 204, 205).

16. The method (400) according to claim 11, wherein the one or more icons (203, 204, 205) associated with the display item (201a, 201b, 201c) for each protected content item within the set indicate rights of the user to access the respective protected content item, a first appearance of the one or more icons (203, 204, 205) indicating that the user is entitled to access the respective protected content item and a second appearance of the one or more icons (203, 204, 205) indicating that the user is not entitled to access the respective protected content item.

17. The method (400) according to claim 11, wherein at least some of the one or more icons (203, 204, 205) further comprise user controls (a) enabling selective linking to or display of information regarding either acquisition of the digital rights management access module for accessing the respective protected content item or acquisition of rights to access the respective protected content item.

18. A user interface (200) comprising:

display items (201a, 201b, 201c) representing a set (201) of content items displayed on a display (101), the content items including one or more items protected by at least one of a plurality of digital rights management systems; and

icons (203, 204, 205) displayed on the display (101) in association with at least display items (201a, 201b, 201c) for those content items within the set that are protected by a digital rights management system, the icons (203, 204, 205) indicating protection of the protected content items by a digital rights management system and, for each protected content

item, identifying which of the plurality of digital rights management systems protects the respective protected content item and whether an access module for the identified digital rights management system is accessible for execution.

5   19.   The user interface (200) according to claim 18, wherein the icons (203, 204, 205) further indicate, for each protected content item, whether a current user has access entitlements for the respective protected content item.

          20.   The user interface (200) according to claim 19, wherein the icons (203, 204, 205)
10   further comprise user controls for (a) accessing information regarding either retrieval of an access module for the identified digital rights management system or acquisition of access entitlements for the respective protected content items, or (b) initiating either retrieval of an access module for the identified digital rights management system or acquisition of access entitlements for the respective protected content items.

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